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DOWNINGIA LAETA
GREAT BASIN DOWNINGIA

Great Basin Downingia is a glabrous annual with simple or branched stems that are erect to ascending and 5-20 cm tall. The sessile, lance-shaped leaves are 5-20 mm long, and the lower wither early. The sessile flowers are borne in the axils of the smaller upper leaves, or bracts. The flower is borne on top of the slender ovary, which may appear to be a thickened stalk. The inconspicuous, blue-marked-with-yellow corolla is 4-7 mm long and has a 2-lobed upper lip and a 3-lobed lower lip. The calyx has 5 linear lobes that are 3-8 mm long and as long or longer than the corolla. The stamens are united into a column. The many-seeded cylindrical capsule is 20-45 mm long and 1-2 mm thick. Flowering in June-early July, fruiting July-early October.

The asymmetry between the 2-lobed upper and the 3-lobed lower lip in combination with the elongate capsule distinguish it from most other wetland genera and families.